

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 092050Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5935

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 81

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB TD

SUBJECT: STRIKE SHUTS DOWN MAJOR SUGAR PRODUCER

REF: A-112 - 11/30/73

1. APPROXIMATELY 3000 (OR ONE HALF) OF THE FIELD WORK FORCE AT CARONI LTD., WHICH PRODUCES 90 PERCENT OF TRINIDAD SUGAR, REFUSED TO REPORT FOR WORK JANUARY 8. AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT OF THE STRIKERS ARE STRIKING FOR GUARANTEED WORK, WHILE THE OTHER 50 PERCENT ARE SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE BACKING DEPOSED PRESIDENT PANDAY OF THE ALL TRINIDAD SUGAR ESTATES AND FACTORIES WORKERS TRADE UNION (ALL TRINIDAD) IN HIS POWER STRUGGLE WITH ALL TRINIDAD SECRETARY GENERAL RAMPARTAP SINGH. CARONI MANAGEMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS THREE SUGAR FACTORIES WILL CLOSE BECAUSE OF LACK OF CUT CANE TO PROCESS.

2. THE SUGAR CANE HARVEST BEGAN JANUARY 2 UNDER CLOUD OF LABOR TROUBLE. IN CONFLICT CONTINUING FROM LAST YEAR, WORKERS AT SMALLER ORANGE GROVE ESTATES, PRODUCING 8 PERCENT OF CROP, CALLED FOR A GO-SLOW UNTIL TWO OFFICERS ARE DISMISSED FROM COMPANY. ORANGE GROVE OFFICIAL TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT MANAGEMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO BOW TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKER PRESSURE TO DISMISS OFFICERS.

3. SIMBHOONATH CAPILDEO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION SANATAN DHARMA MAHA SABHA WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT 400,000 HINDUS, IS TRYING TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN SINGH AND PANDAY. TWO MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED DURING WHICH SINGH BROUGHT THE DISPUTED UNION VOUCHERS FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY BUT SO FAR PANDAY HAS NOT APPEARED. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT CAPILDEO WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS BEFORE SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF THE HARVEST TAKES PLACE. HOWEVER, PANDAY WILL NOT EASILY GIVE UP POLITICIZING SUGAR WORKERS AGAINST BOTH COMPANY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATIVE UNION LEADERS.

4. CARONI THIS YEAR HAS DEVISED A SYSTEM OF BONUS PAYMENTS TO AVOID MALICIOUS CANE FIRES PREVALENT DURING THE 1973 SEASON, BUT CONTINUED LABOR TURMOIL WILL PROBABLY CONTRIBUTE TO FIRE PROBLEM THIS YEAR AND LOWER PRODUCTION.
MOFFAT

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Message Attributes

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